



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

August 18, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
Ranking Member
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the oldest and largest business organization in Southern California, to voice the business community's opposition to S. 276, S. 295, H.R. 196, H.R. 250 and H.R. 1598 which would divide the Ninth Circuit. We oppose these bills for the following reasons:

1. There is a significant advantage to the Court's current structure from a business perspective. A ruling from the current Ninth Circuit creates one standard of federal law for the western states. A single federal appellate court for the West Coast minimizes the risk that the laws of intellectual property, maritime trade, labor relations, banking or other business matters will be different in major business hubs like Los Angeles, San Diego, Seattle and Phoenix. The fact that one federal court of appeals has jurisdiction over rules of federal law for all technology companies on the west coast eliminates an element of uncertainty and potential conflict in our fast growing technology sector.
2. The size of the current Ninth Circuit has, by necessity, led it to innovations that are important to businesses around the west. Size is not an inherent disadvantage. The Ninth Circuit has made size its friend and pioneered new techniques for the delivery of judicial services by our federal courts. For example, the Court is using technology to implement a case-monitoring and issue-spotting system that alerts Judges to cases raising similar issues before they are decided so decisions can be harmonized.
3. Businesses are frequently faced with tough decisions about allocating limited financial resources. The government certainly faces these same constraints. We question the wisdom of spending more government resources on the bureaucracy of another circuit.

Thank you for your consideration of the business perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Toebben".

Gary Toebben
President and CEO